Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 22 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 23 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 21 Feb 2024 at 13:19

Confidence: Marked change to colder conditions later on Thursday with winter conditions expected over the coming days on the Fells, strong winds at times will enhance the windchill and snow accumulations are likely at higher level. Lower confidence in the timing of heavier showers on Thursday.

Headline for Thursday 22 Feb 2024: Showers and brighter spells. Fresh to strong summit winds bringing a severe wind chill at height.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 22 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Sleet	Sleet	Heavy snow	Light snow showers	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Light snow showers	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
00%	60%	30%	30%	20%	20%	30%	40%

Forecast for Thursday 22 Feb 2024

Weather: A mix of showers and clear then brighter spells. Outbreaks heavy at first with the risk of hail, but dwindling from mid-morning. Snow confined to highest peaks at first, lowering 400m from late morning. Brighter spells limited at first, building from late morning.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% becoming 70% from late morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow showers and within cloud with bases quite extensive from 600m at first, before lifting and breaking from late morning.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 22 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	41/50 SW	35/45 SW	30/37 SW	25/31 W	22/29 W	25/33 W	25/32 W	27/35 SW	27/36 SW
600	32/44 SW	30/42 SW	24/32 SW	22/30 W	21/29 W	22/31 W	20/28 W	22/32 SW	22/32 SW
300	11/33 SW	13/33 SW	9/25 SW	9/23 W	10/23 W	10/25 W	8/23 W	10/26 SW	10/26 SW
Valley	11/30 SW	15/32 SW	10/25 SW	9/22 W	11/22 W	12/25 W	9/22 W	11/26 SW	12/25 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	1/-7	0/-8	-2/-10	-2/-10	-3/-11	-3/-11	-3/-11	-3/-11
600	3/-4	3/-4	2/-5	1/-6	0/-6	-0/-7	-1/-8	-1/-8	-0/-7
300	6/2	5/1	4/0	3/-0	4/-0	3/-1	1/-2	2/-2	2/-2
Valley	8/5	7/3	6/2	6/2	6/2	5/2	4/1	5/1	5/1
Freezing Level*	1100m	1000m	900m	600m	400m	400m	400m	500m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Note the freezing level will lower below summits with wintery precipitation likely in the afternoon and a significant wind chill effect at height.

Forecast for Friday 23 Feb 2024

Weather: Further showers and brighter spells. Outbreaks occasional early, dwindling through the rest of the day, snow level around 400-500m.

Maximum wind: Southwest initially mean 25-30mph with gusts 40mph, easing gradually through the day.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 75%

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow showers and within cloud with bases lowering 600m at times as showers push through.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero Celsius increasing plus 8 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 1 to 3 Celsius
Freezing level: 500-700m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 21 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:55 Full report: This report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, Thursday's weather forecast is for any showers to fall as snow on the fell tops so walkers planning to be out on Thursday should keep up to date with the forecast and also be prepared to encounter more snow than experienced and described today. Although, to be fair, that would not be difficult! The vast majority of the fells up to, and including, summit level are now free from snow and ice. The only snow that remains lies in isolated patches above 900m on steep north and east facing aspects. Owing to their locations this snow represents no hazard to walkers with all Lakeland paths being clear of snow and this includes exposed routes such as the Helvellyn Edges. The main hazards encountered today were the wet, slippery ground underfoot, low cloud and the driving, heavy rain. Consequently, the ground is saturated and water courses require care when crossing. Despite the appearance of daffodils in the valleys, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was minus 4 degrees at midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. The cloud above 700m sometimes reduced visibility to around 50m so a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently in poor visibility is also essential for anyone heading into the fells. With the potential for snow at altitude on Thursday, navigation will be far more challenging as paths etc disappear. With temperatures forecast to drop and the ground being so wet, those heading for higher ground on Thursday should consider adding microspikes to their rucksacks and even crampons and an ice axe if contemplating steep and exposed routes above any new snowline. Keep checking the forecasts! Temperature: plus 3.9 C, Maximum wind speed 37.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 3.9 C, Average wind speed: 28.0 mph

Issued at: 1319 on Wed 21 Feb 2024

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